



# EPPING VIEWS KINDERGARTEN NEWSLETTER

**Term 3 July 2014**

Welcome back to Term 3. We hope you all enjoyed your holidays and spending time with your children. The children have all come back really settled and ready and eager to learn.

We have lots of fun and exciting things planned for Term 3 starting off with planting. The children will be planting vegetables, flowers, herbs, grass. We will have Bunnings coming out to guide us and start us off on these projects. The children will be predicting, estimating and measuring the growth of their seeds. They will be learning about the parts of a plant, how they grow and if the need soil and light to help them.

Our 4 year old children this term will start going over to Epping Views Primary School for a half and hour each Friday to commence some specialist programs such as PE, library, performing arts. The children had a great time last week. You can view some photos of this experience on the kinder web page. The teachers at EVPS were amazed at how well behaved and settled all of the children were.

15 Lyndarum Drive

Epping, Vic, 3076

Phone: 8405 3227

Fax: 8405 3263

## **Term Dates**

28<sup>th</sup> Jan – 4<sup>th</sup> April  
22<sup>nd</sup> April – 27<sup>th</sup> June  
14<sup>th</sup> July – 19<sup>th</sup> Sept  
6<sup>th</sup> Oct – 19<sup>th</sup> Dec

*We have children who  
are at high risk of  
Anaphylaxis.*

*We ask that you do not  
send nuts or nut  
products in with your  
child.*

## **Reminders**

**Lost Property**— we have a lot of clothing in our lost property boxes. Please check to see if anything belongs to you. At the end of this month what is in the box will go to charity.

**Sessions**— please be on time when dropping off and collecting your child. It is important that your child is there for the start so that they don't miss the whole group time at the start of the sessions. When waiting with other toddlers please ensure they are not ringing the door bell or knocking on the door as it is a distraction to the children.

**Change of Clothes**—please ensure that your child has a change of clothes in their bag in case of any toilet accidents.

## **Diary Dates**

- 24th July — Bunnings visit to our kinder to do some planting with us
- 16th—22nd August— Book Week—dress up as your favourite book character
- 24th—31st August— Australia Environmental Week
- 18th—20th August — Kinder photos
- Every Friday—4 year old going to EVPS for specialist programs—PE, library, performing arts



## Echidna News

We ended Term 2 on a high with the children coming dressed up as what they want to be when they grow up. The children loved dressing up and we had a great discussion about why they chose those particular occupations. It was a great way to finish off our focus on community helpers.

Our children all came back from their term holidays feeling refreshed and excited to get back into the swing of things. They settled back into the routines beautifully and eagerly caught up with their friends and teachers.

Our main goals for this term are for the children to use the processes of play, reflection and investigation to problem solve (EYLF- Learning 3.4) and also for the children to actively use, engage with and share the enjoyment of language and texts in a range of ways (EYLF- Communication 2.7). We have already started to talk more about the letters in the alphabet and have been brainstorming words that begin with certain letters. We have also started talking about capital letters, full stops, finger spaces and the parts that make up a book.

We have developed a helper chart that will see each of the children get a turn at helping us with various jobs throughout each session. This will help them to learn about roles and responsibilities.

Term 3 will see us focusing on plants and how they grow. We will be planting some flowers, grass and herbs. We will make predictions and document our findings about the growth of various plants, we will discuss what plants need to grow and the different parts of a plant.

We will also be putting out the parent helper sign-up sheet again if you would like to volunteer and come and see all of the fun and learning that your child gets up to here at kinder.

Melissa and Melinda

## Joey News

Over the past month the children have been learning about emergency services such as police, fire and ambulance. We then went in more depth about each emergency service -their role on the community, what equipment they use and how they help people. We were able to explore this topic through literature by reading non-fiction books about each service where the children became involved by asking questions or relating their own knowledge of the topic.

From this topic we moved on to community helpers. We had discussions with the children about what sorts of people that live in our community help us. This lead onto having the police visit, fire fighter visit and finally a veterinary nurse came to visit the children at the kinder. The community helper people that came to visit the kinder each discussed with the children what their role was and how they help out in the wider community.

Another focus has been that the children have been talking about what they want to be when they grow up. At group time, we have had many discussions about what sorts of jobs the children know of out in the community. From this, a walking excursion was organised for the children to have the opportunity to visit Woolworths across the road from the kindergarten. The children wrote themselves a letters and on our excursion the children were able to post the letters into the large post box, before we went inside the shopping centre. Once inside Woolworths, the children had the opportunity to meet many of the people that work there n many of the different departments such as the butcher, the baker, the farmer. The children all received a bag of fruit and Jamie stickers, which they all absolutely loved.

This gave the children lots of ideas of what they could come dressed up as for the last day of term 2. First few weeks back in term 3, we will be focusing on planting and having a discussion about the worksheet that we sent home with your children to be completed during their kinder holidays!

If you have any questions regarding your child or the curriculum please feel free to speak with Amanda after the session.

Amanda and Laura J

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## Koala News

Term 3 already... this year is going crazy fast!

There is going to be a few changes to the routine this term. We are asking that when you and your child come into kinder if you could take your drink bottle out and place it on the trolley located near the locker. We also be implementing a job chart as a part of our program. Each day children will be giving a job and it is their role to ensure this job is completed. Our job chart includes setting up tables at snack time, picking the different songs and books we read for the day and also the weather chart.

We ended last term with talking about recycling and sustainability at kinder. We implemented water saving buckets in our bathrooms to help save water for our plants. We also upgraded our worm farm and began composting. We have included these into our daily jobs giving 2 children a day the sole responsibility for these areas, this helps in making sure all children have the opportunity to be a part of our sustainability practices at kindergarten.

We have now progressed into planting and will be introducing vegetables and herbs to our outdoor and indoor environments. We have begun discussing with children the life cycle of plants and what plants need to grow. Growing a plant is extremely exciting and each children will have their own plant to care for but we will also be documenting our plants growth over the next few weeks before taking them home. The children will be introduced to different ways and tools for measuring and practice our number recognition and writing skills.

We are going to be alphabet crazy this term with practicing capital and lower case letters.

This term we will also be making weekly visits to Epping Views Primary School as a part of a transition into school program. We will be visiting the school every Friday at 10.15am, so make sure you are here on time so you don't miss out. We have placed a new parent helper form next to the sign in book for Term 3, if you do sign up for a Friday we are asking for no siblings on this day because of our school program.

Don't forget Gum-Lee is still making his way around the group so he may come home to this turn. We are still waiting for some children's photos or little diary entry for Gum-Lee to add to his book.

Thank You,

Casey and Melyssa.

## Cockatoo and Rosella News

In the last weeks of the term 2 the three year children were looking at Pets. We discussed different types of pets we have at home. We used books to help us explore the different types of pets families might have. We used a graph to document who had what pets and noticed many of our kinder friends don't have pets. Over the holidays we sent home holiday homework for the children to fill out about either their pet or what their dream pet would be. This week many children brought back their work and were very excited to discuss their pets and show off photos and drawings. We will turn these into a book for us to read.

The three year olds will also be focusing on planting like the 4 year olds. This week as a group we planted two seeds and discussed how and what a seed needs to grow. We kept checking throughout our session to see if it had grown yet. Once our seed begins to grow we will also measure this seed as a group and compare our findings with the other three year old groups. We will also give all the children the chance to grow their own grass heads and look after them, these will come home in a few weeks' time.

This term we will be focusing on writing our names and further extending on letter recognition with more challenging experiences. We will also introduce some of the 4 year old routines such as the weather chart and days of the week., as well as a variety of new songs and games.

Parent helpers are also invited for the first time this term. There is a sign-up sheet located next to the sign book. We look forward to having you come and play with us.

Thank You,

Casey, Melinda and Melyssa.

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**Term 3 July 2014**

## **Wombat News**

What a busy term 2 the Wombat children had and one of the most exciting things for the children was our first walking excursion to the local Woolworths where they met different people in the community such as a shop keeper, butcher, baker, delivery man and a postie. This excursion linked with our topic of people in our community and extended upon the children's interest in the supermarket set up in the room. The children role-played in this area, having a shop keeper and customers. The children were exposed to literacy concepts in this area by writing their own shopping lists using the shopping catalogues – which enabled them to copy environmental print and learn symbols such as the dollar sign and used their shopping lists to match the words to the items in the shop.

Numeracy concepts were learnt as they used the play money in the shop and experimented with the use of a calculator introducing them to the meaning of the plus and equals symbol.

The children enjoyed posting their letters in the post box and I am sure they were even more excited when they reached their letterbox at home.

Can you believe it is already term 3 and we are right back into learning! We have begun this term by speaking about plants as is important for the children to have a growing appreciation for our natural environment. Before we begun our planning stages of the topic it was important for us to know what knowledge the children had on the topic so we asked them what they knew about plants. We were amazed with the amount of knowledge the children had on plants and this helped us plan appropriate learning activities for the group. We have spoken about what plants have, need, and give and labelled the parts of a plant. They have learnt planting terminology such as germination and pollination.

The children are going to be participating in their own planting experience where they will plant a broad bean using the steps we have learnt and they will be responsible for caring for their plant by ensuring it is being watered and put in the sun each day to grow.

We will use an observation book to document the plants growth. This will require the children to explore relationships with living and non-living things and to observe, notice and investigate and respond to change. We will also be having Marlene from Bunning's come out and do planting with the children in our garden beds at Epping Views.

Please keep checking our reflection book for more information about what the children have been learning and if you have any questions regarding your child or the curriculum, please feel free to speak with Catherine or Donna after the session.

Already a busy start to term 3 with a lot more to come from the Wombats

Catherine and Donna

## **Maggie and Kookaburra**

At the end of last term the children were showing a lot of interest in our Vet area that was set up. They enjoyed using the medical box to fix the dog's arm with the bandage and to give the cat a needle and so on. We read books about what Vets do and how they help animals. This lead on to a discussion of who has a pet at home where we documented this in a graph. We counted how many of our peers have cats, dogs, birds, fish or no pets. During the school holidays we sent home holiday homework for the children to fill in information about their pet or if they didn't have a pet it would be their dream pet. It was great to see the children bring these back to kinder. The children shared these with the group by explaining the name of their pet, the type of pet and what their pet likes to do.

Things we are focusing on in Term 3:

**Name recognition:** This has continued on from term 2. We will be using the children's name cards on the tables at snack time to encourage them to recognise their names from their peers and to look at their name and become familiar with the letters in their name. The children will continue to place their name card on the board during transition times and repeating the first letter of their name "C for Catherine".

**Involvement in group time:** We are starting to introduce more discussions and are encouraging the children to put their hand up to share their ideas and to sit and listen to their peers. We have some new games for the children to learn which will require the children to turn take and at times work collaboratively with one another.

Already a busy start to term 3 and we look forward to sharing more of what the children have been learning. Please keep checking our reflection book and if you have any questions regarding your child or the curriculum, please feel free to speak with the teachers after the session.

Catherine, Laura and Donna

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## **Kinder Photos**

Kinder photos for Epping Views Kindergarten have been booked for Monday 18th August, Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th August. Each group will have the photographer with them for a whole session taking individual and group photos. As we get more information we will let families know.

## **School Enrolments for 2015**

If your child will be going to school in 2015 please contact the school that your child will be attending and enroll them. Schools are already looking at next year and trying to get their numbers for prep classes. It is important for us to know what school they will be going to so that we can help ensure that we provide schools with friendships and information needed for a smooth transition from kinder to school.

## **Kinder Enrolments for 2015**

If your child is attending a 4 year old kinder program in 2015, the City of Whittlesea are sending their placements out this week to all families who have completed enrolment forms. They do their best to try and give families their first preferences. Once you get your placement you will need to send back your acceptance. Once this process is completed all kinders in the City of Whittlesea will be given their list for 2015. Kinders receive these usually in September. Once we get our list, we will then send a letter out to families asking what sessions times you prefer.

As the Federal Government is still saying they will not be funding 15 hours of kindergarten in 2015 our timetables and session times have not been completed until we hear if the State Government will pick up the extra 5 hours of funding. If the extra funding isn't supported by either the Federal or State Government then the funded 4 year old program will drop to 10 hours per week as that is all that will be funded. We will keep you updated in our newsletters as to when a decision has been made by the government.



## **Collection of Children**

When collecting your child please ensure that someone over the age of 18 years old is signing out and collecting your child. Our policy states that it is a legal requirement that it is an adult who drops off and collects your child at the end of each session. We understand that it is wet and cold at this time of the year and it makes it difficult to get other children out of the car but we will not be letting your child leave without someone over the age of 18.

We thank you for your co operation.





# EMERGENCY SERVICES AT EPPING VIEWS KINDER



Throughout Term 2 our children learnt about Emergency Services. We had visit from the Fire Brigade and the Police.

The children learnt all about '000" and what to do in those situations. We even had our own fire evacuation drill at EVK.



The children also learnt about community helpers from vets, doctors, shop keepers, postie, hairdressers, dentists.

The children had several people from the community come and talk to them about their jobs and how they help.



EVK children also had an excursion over to Woolworth where they went on a tour through the back of the shop and saw all the different jobs. They also posted a letter to their families on the way.





## "WHAT DO I WANT TO BE WHEN I GROW UP?" DRESS UP DAY



## COLOUR DRESS UP DAY—3 Year Olds



The children always enjoy dress up days! We have many more planned for this term.

# Literacy



## What have we been doing at Epping Views Kindergarten?

Literacy has been a focus at EVK throughout this whole year for both 3 and 4 year old children. We have been working on the children recognising their names and begin to write it themselves. They have been looking at the letter names and particularly what letters are in their names. The children have a writing table set up within the rooms where they can go and do writing or tracing. The children have scrapbooks where they can write in. The children are being taught how to model correct pencil grip. The children are exposed to rhyme and rhythm through songs, nursery rhymes and plays.

More recently the children have been exposed to what makes a sentence. They are becoming aware that all sentences start with a capital letter, many sentences end with a full stop and we have spaces between our words. This term they will be learning about what makes a book—front cover, back cover, title, blurb, author, illustrator, what page we read first, which way we read (Left to right). They will look at the pictures to tell and predict what the story is telling us and read the writing to see that it matches their predictions.

## How you can help your child at home with reading?

There are many things that you can be doing at home that will help your child develop their brains and their ability to concentrate.

Mem Fox who is a well known author suggests that you establish a nightly routine of reading aloud to your child. She says the ideal would be to read 3 books a night: one favourite, one familiar and one new book.



When reading aloud to your child make them relaxing and fun. Play simple games with your child to emphasise rhyming words. You can also: show them how to hold a book the right way, how to turn the pages correctly, try turning the pages from the back to the front or hold the book upside down and see how your child responds. Get them to point to a capital letter or full stop. Tell them the title and see if they can find a letter it in that their name starts with. Count the pages in the book.

**Experts say that children need to hear 1,000 stories read aloud to them before they can begin to learn to read for themselves.**

Let's see if we can try our best to start reading 3 books to them daily!

Mem Fox has written some wonderful books that you may like to start reading to your child: Possum Magic, Time For Bed, The Magic Hat, Hattie and the Fox, Koala Lou, Where Is The Green Sheep?, Wombat Divine, Boo To A Goose.



